

No. 7311

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Viadero L.

Residence New York.

Date Sept 12 1891

Rec'd

Ack'g'd

Answered Oct 5 "

SUBJECT.

Desire to sell a
painting of Genl
Washington to the
Gallery.

✓

7311
The Corcoran Gallery of Art
SEP 12 1891
Washington, D. C.
G. VILHJELM
28 South William St.
New York

DESCRIPTION OF THE PICTURE

THE scene of the Inauguration of General George Washington, as the First President of the United States of America, was enacted in the gallery adjoining the Senate Chamber in Federal Hall, then situate on the spot where now stands the statue of the "Father of his Country" at the Sub-Treasury in Wall Street, in the City of New York.

Señor Ramon de Elorriaga, adhering most faithfully to the record of history in all essential respects, has endeavored to make the canvas breathe with the "Counterfeit Presentment" of this ever memorable and soul-stirring event, and to add one more effort — a sincere and conscientious, though a humble effort,— to those which have been already made for the purpose of perpetuating and consecrating the memory thereof, not only in the land of the hero's ever grateful and affectionate countrymen, but in all other lands where civil and political liberty and freedom have prevailed over tyranny and oppression, and now flourish.

In the painting, George Washington (No. 1) appears as the Central Figure in a group of contemporaneous Statesmen and other celebrities and persons, standing between the first and second pillars of the Gallery with his side face turned towards the street; his head uncovered and his hair powdered, gathered and tied in the prevailing

fashion of that day. His left hand is placed over his heart, and his right arm is extended towards, with his right hand touching or slightly resting upon an open bible reposing on a rich crimson cushion, which rests against the breast of James Otis (No. 4) Secretary of the U. S. Senate, who supports it with his right arm. Opposite to George Washington on the left, stands John Adams, (No. 2) Vice President of the United States; both facing each other—the latter standing with his back turned towards Broad Street and close to the first pillar and the railing of the Gallery. Next to James Otis and on his left stands R. R. Livingstone (No. 3) Chancellor of the State of New York, having on his robe and administering the oath of office.

The group is continued at the lower end of the Gallery and is extended inwards along said lower end and upwards and along the side opposite to the railing and running parallel with it. The members of this group are represented in various attitudes; all, however, indicating strict attention to and great interest in the proceedings.

In the centre of the Gallery, and behind the Central Figure is a table covered with a rich crimson cover; at the inner end of which is seated a Secretary or Recorder of the proceedings; and on his right, General Henry Knox (No. 5) supported by his left arm resting on the table and looking up to "Washington." A chair is seen at that side of the table which is nearer to the lower end of the Gallery, and one of the figures is shown standing behind this chair with both his arms resting on the top of it. Roger Sherman is seen at No. 6, Major-General Arthur St. Clair at No. 7, and Major-General Baron Steuben at No. 8.

The personages whose names are given and who are indicated by numbers, are intended to be faithfully represented in the picture, and therefore the corresponding

figures in it are also intended to be faithful likenesses of them. As to those other members composing the group, whose names are not given, and who are not indicated by numbers, it is right to say that the undersigned has indulged in the artist's license of drawing upon his imagination to supply these, consistently however, with history which declares that on this interesting and memorable occasion, there were "others" present, in addition to the celebrities particularly mentioned above and represented by faithful likenesses in the picture. It will be observed that as to these "others," the undersigned has been careful to preserve the typical characteristics of the period, in regard to all the essential particulars and details.

The presence of the "people" is indicated by the figures seen in the street pressing close up to the railing of the Gallery, while on the right is seen part of a house at the corner of Broad Street, with persons looking out of the windows at the inauguration. A glimpse of other houses further on in the direction of Broadway is also afforded by the picture, which also includes a view, in the distance, of the upper part and of the steeple of "Old Trinity."

RAMON DE ELORRIAGA.

This Artist belongs to the Spanish-Roman School of Painting. He studied the art at the Academy of Madrid, and in Rome under the celebrated Consoni, and is Academician of the Real Academia of San Fernando. He visited the United States in 1875 and remained there until 1877, during which time he made himself known to the American public through various works, among which was a portrait of Mrs. Peabody, a painting of considerable size, which was on exhibition at

Astor Place in this city, and commanded the special notice and attention of the Press and the Public.

Among other portraits executed by him were those of Commodore Levy and his wife, and many other well-known persons, whilst the following works from the same brush : "A Problem in Chess," "The Problem (in Chess) Solved," "The Little Smokers" and some others equally good, have earned for him a place among the best in his profession.

In addition to these may be mentioned the following—all painted in Spain—whose merit and excellence has been duly appreciated and acknowledged.

Life-size portrait of King Amadeo, now in the National Gallery at Madrid.

Life-sized portrait of Cayetano Sans-Captain-General of Puerto Rico, West Indies.

"Los Naufragos del Cantabro" ("Shipwrecked on the Cantabrian Coast"), now in a private Club House in Havana, Cuba.

"Protesta de Don Juan de Lanuza" ("Protest of Don Juan de Lanuza").

"El Restablecimiento de la Compania de Jesus por Pio VII" ("The Re-establishment of the Society of Jesus by Pius VII"), now in the University of Bilbao, Spain.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

SEP 12 1891

Washington, D. C.

C. VIADERO,
16 SOUTH WILLIAM STREET.

CABLE: VIADERO, NEW YORK.

7311
New York, Sept 11th 1891.

And Oct 5th,

Corcoran Art Gallery.

Washington

Dear Sir:

I own and have for sale the
Painting described in the enclosed leaflet.
Canvas 54 x 72," frame 4 1/2 inches.

It is the only painting
of the kind and a masterly piece of art
therefor I think it would be a grand
thing for your Gallery.

Hoping to hear from you
I remain

Yours truly
C. Viadero
H.

The Corcoran Gallery

SEP 12 1891

Adm'd Sept 13/91

Washington, D. C.

No. 7312

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Vanderburgh J. H.

Residence Saratoga

N. Y.

Date Sept. 22. 1891.

Rec'd " " "

Ack'g'd " 25 "

Answered Photo sent

SUBJECT.

For a photo

V

7312
The Corcoran Gallery of Art,

Washington, D.C. Sept., 22, /91.

Mr J. W. Vanderburgh

Dear Sir:-

Your letter enclosing Postal Note
for \$3.00 has been received.

We have not a sufficient number of
unmounted photographs of Charlotte Corday on
hand to fill your order, but as soon as they are
received from the photographer they will be
mailed you.

Very truly yours

A. J. Barbavin
" Curator.

23/2
The Corcoran Gallery of Art

SEP 22 1891

Washington, D. C.

Photos sent
Sept 23/91
Saratoga Sept 22/91

Mr Curator

Dear Sir

Please send
one Photo. of Charlotte Corday
11 x 15 and two Photos of same
7 1/2 x 9 1/4 unmounted

and oblige

Yours truly,
J. H. Wadsworth

1.75-
60
60
\$2.95-

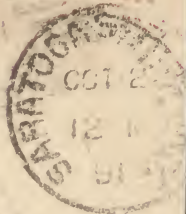
I enclose Postal Note for
amount.

Have you any of the old
catalogues which contained or
gave a description of the paintings
if so, please send me one.

and oblige J.H.W.

The Corcoran Gallery of Art.
Washington, D.C.

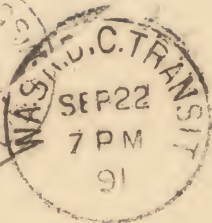
3



Mr J. W. Vanderburgh

Saratoga

New York.



No. 7313

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

Washington D C
WRITER.
Washington D C
Collins & Bowell
M. & G. R. R. Co.
Residence

Date

June 20, 1891

Rec'd

Ack'g'd

Answered



SUBJECT.

Agreement for rent
of part of square 171,
\$40 - per month in advance.

R. R. Co. rent the above
and an additional lot for \$60
per mo.

Nov 14, R. R. Co. relinquish lot 21
from Dec 1/91

ANTHONY HYDE,
CHARLES M. MATTHEWS
EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM W. CORCORAN,
OFFICE OF EXECUTORS AND TRUSTEES,
No. 714 15TH STREET N.W.

TELEPHONE 918.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1313
June 20, 1891

Dear Sir:

I in close a contract between the Gallery & the W. & G. N.M. Co., for the rent of the lot at N.Y. av & 17th from July 1/91, at a monthly tenancy, @ \$60 pr. month; subject to the existing lease from M. M. Parker to Collins & Co. who pays us \$40 pr mo. till 1 July. (which I believe, has been paid)

The N.M. Co. has arranged with B. & C. to receive their rent as they relinquish.

Yrs truly
A. Hyde

Dr. J. Farbanin
Sincerely

AGREEMENT BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT.

Memorandum of an Agreement, BETWEEN MYRON M. PARKER and
Joseph Collins & Herbert Correll.

all of the City of Washington, District of Columbia, whereby the said MYRON M. PARKER
has agreed to let, and does hereby let, to the said Joseph Collins & Herbert Correll,
Indep. numbered, 2, 3, 4, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 10, 12, 20, 22, square 17.1 in said City,
by the month, commencing on the first day of February, A. D. 1897,
at and for the monthly rent of Forty (40.00) Dollars, payable in full,
in advance, that is to say, on said first day of each and every month during
which the said tenancy may continue, as rent in advance for the next expiring month.

And the said Joseph Collins & Herbert Correll have agreed to take,
and do hereby take and hold the said premises as a tenant by the month at the said rent,
payable as aforesaid, and that they will pay the Water Rent and Gas Bills as they become due, and that they
will not sub-let or assign the said premises, or carry on any business therein, except that of business purposes,
without the written consent of the said Lessor, or use the same for any disorderly or unlawful purpose.

Provided Always, that if the Lessee shall fail to pay the said rent in full as aforesaid, although
there should have been no legal or formal demand for any rent whatever, or shall neglect to pay the
Water Rent or Gas Bills at the time and on the day when the same shall fall due and be payable, as herein-
before mentioned, or shall sub-let or assign the said premises, or carry on any business therein, except that of
business purposes without the written consent as aforesaid, or
shall use the same for any disorderly or unlawful purpose, or break either of the aforesaid covenants, then and
in either of said events, this lease, and all things herein contained, shall cease and determine, and shall operate
as a notice to quit, the thirty days' notice to quit being hereby expressly waived. And the said Lessor
his heirs and assigns, shall and may proceed to recover the possession of said premises, under and by virtue
of a seven days' summons under the provisions of Sections 684 and 685 of the Revised Statutes of the United
States, relating to the District of Columbia, to regulate proceedings in cases between landlords and tenants; or
by such legal process as may at the time be in operation in like case; but if no default occurs on the part of
the said Lessee to the aforesaid provisions referred to above, then they shall be entitled to not less than
thirty days' notice to vacate the house and premises, and the owner or agent shall be entitled to the same
notice from the Lessee, should they desire to vacate the aforesaid house and premises.

And it is Further Provided, that if under the provisions of this agreement a seven days' sum-
mons shall be served, and a compromise or settlement shall be made thereupon it shall not constitute a waiver of
any covenant herein contained, or of the agreement itself. And the said Lessee hereby agrees to deliver the
house in the same order in which it was received, usual wear and tear, fire and storm excepted; and it is
hereby provided and agreed that no waiver of one breach of any covenant herein shall be construed to be a

waiver of the covenant itself, or of any subsequent breach thereof. *And it is further agreed that
the said party of the second part shall deliver to said party of the first part
upon the receipt of a thirty days' notice to vacate the aforesaid house in the
same condition as the same before their agreement was entered into
having all rights as to notice.*

In Testimony Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands this _____
day of February A. D. 1897.

Witness:

O. B. Huse

Myron M. Parker
Joseph W. Collins
Herbert M. Correll

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
MYRON M. PARKER
AND

Collins and Cowell.

Square 4th
February- 2, 1892

For value received
I hereby assign, the
within mentioned lease
to the, "Trustees of the
Corcoran Gallery of Art."
Myron M. Parker

M. M. PARKER
REAL ESTATE BROKER,
No. 1418 F Street, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE UNDERSIGNED, *The Trustees of the Occorran Gallery*
of Art. by Anthony Hyde Secretary &
Treasurer as Agent.

as part *y* of the first part, and *The Washington & Georgetown*
Rail Road Company

as part *y* of the second part, LEASE and take the following property, upon the terms of the COVENANTS hereinafter
specified, to wit: *1. 2. 3. 4. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. and 21,*
in Square 171. to be used for business
purposes, said lots from 2 to 20 both
inclusive being hereby leased subject
to a contract of lease between Myron
M. Parker and Joseph M. Collins & Allen M.
Cowell, dated February 1891

in Washington City, District of Columbia.

COVENANT 1st. The part *y* of the first part hereby lease to the part *y* of the second part the premises hereinbefore
described for the term of *from month to month* from the
first day of *July* A. D. 18*91*, to be then fully ended and terminated,
~~without other notice than the execution of these presents, at the rate of~~
Sixty Dollars,
per month, in lawful money of the United States; to be paid in equal monthly installments, in advance, on the first day of each
month of the tenancy hereby created, save and except such proportionate part thereof as shall accrue during such time as said
premises shall be untenable by reason of Fire, act of God, or public enemies, without the fault or hindrance of the said part *y*
of the second part, together with the Water Rent and Gas Bills as they become due.

COVENANT 2d. It is further agreed that this contract shall bind the ~~heirs, executors, and administrators~~ *legal representatives* of the respective
parties hereto, but it shall not be transferred or assigned, in whole or in part, without the written consent of the Lessor *or its*
agent.

COVENANT 3d. That the said part *y* of the second part shall, at *own* cost, keep said premises in as good order
as when received, and shall, at the end of the tenancy, restore the same to the proper part *y*, or *agent*, in like good
order, ordinary wear and tear, damage by fire and other elements, and public enemies excepted.

COVENANT 4th. That if the said Lessee shall fail to pay the said rent as aforesaid, or shall neglect to pay the Water Rent
and Gas Bills at the time and on the day when the same shall fall due and be payable as hereinbefore mentioned, or shall sublet or
assign the said premises, or any part thereof, without consent as aforesaid, or shall use the same for any disorderly or unlawful pur-
pose, then, and in either of said events, this lease shall cease and determine; and the said failure to pay the rent aforesaid, shall
operate as a notice to quit, the usual legal notice to quit being hereby expressly waived. And the said Lessor *heirs* and
assigns, shall and may proceed to recover the possession of said premises, under and by virtue of such legal process as may at the
time be applicable in like cases.

COVENANT 5th. ~~It is further agreed that no alteration in the construction, or addition thereto, shall be made in the above~~
~~demised premises; nor shall the same be used or occupied for any other purpose than that specified herein, without the written~~
~~consent of the Lessor or agent, and of the purchase of any alteration or addition, made by such consent, the Lessor~~
~~shall have the refusal at the end of the tenancy, at a price to be named (bona fide) by the tenant, "fixtures" excepted.~~

COVENANT 6th. The tenancy hereby created shall continue after the end of the term specified herein, unless otherwise
provided and agreed by endorsement hereon, until the end of thirty days' written notice from either party, to run from the date of
delivery, except as otherwise provided in Covenant 4th.

Witness the hands and seals of the parties this *eighteenth* day of *June* A. D. 18*91*.

SIGNED, SEALED, AND DELIVERED (IN
DUPLICATE) IN THE PRESENCE OF

The Trustees of the Occorran
Gallery of Art. by Anthony Hyde
Secretary & Treasurer as Agent
Trustee
SEAL.
Trustee
SEAL.

H. H. Hark
N. D. R. R. Co.
SEAL.
SEAL.
SEAL.

No. 7313-

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Wentworth J. H.
Residence Washington D.C.

Date Aug 6th 1891

Rec'd

Ack'g'd

Answered Oct 5- 11

SUBJECT.

Desire To sell a
painting of Niagara
To The Gallery.

V

1517 S St NW

Ans

Oct. 5/91

August 1th 1891

To the Trustees of the
Coccoran Gallery of Arts
Washington DC }

Allow me to call your attention to an oil painting of Niagara Falls which I have, and which was executed in 1823 from a different stand point of the one which you have in your Gallery, executed by Church in 1857— Its dimensions are 6ft 1. by 3ft 5 inside of frame. The painting gives a true representation of the whole falls, Goat Island, and river above; and is a fine exhibition of Nature, represented by art— I believe this to be the only one extant, that can date sixty-eight years back, and present so perfect a view of that wonderful cataract. The many changes which have taken place since, make this valuable as an historic record of the Falls; and would be a valuable acquisition to your already well furnished Gallery—

I present this for your consideration, with a view of disposing of it, should you find in it merit, worthy of a place among your valuable collections— I cordially invite your examination of this painting, as you have been so liberally the patron for the exhibition and perpetuity of Meritorious art.

Very respectfully

J H Wentworth Senr

No. 7316

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Weeks F. B.

Residence Brookland, D.C.

Date Aug 26 1891

Rec'd " 21 "

Ack'g'd

Answered

SUBJECT.

Wants a circular of
The School.

✓

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

AUG 27 1891

Washington, D. C.

Sent

Brookland D. C.

Aug 26th 1891.

Dear Sir:-

Will you kindly send
me the printed regulations of the
Corcoran School of Art concerning
copying, art education etc.

Enclosed find postage stamp.

Very Truly

Mrs F. B. Weeks.

Brookland

D. C.

To

F Sinclair Barbarin

Corcoran Art Gallery

Washington

D. C.

Washington, D. C.

September 22nd, 1891.

C. M. Matthews, Esq.,

President Board of Trustees,

Corcoran Gallery of Arts.

Dear Sir:

I have been much interested in noticing the various comments made within the past few weeks on the fact that in the Corcoran Gallery of Arts there are no paintings of the leading generals of the Union Army, while some of the prominent figures of the Confederate Army ^{are} were unduly conspicuous.

It has always been understood, that Mr Corcoran, who founded this magnificent institution, alike so pleasurable, interesting and instructive to our citizens as well as to visitors to the beautiful capital city, was an ardent sympathizer with the Southern Cause, largely brought about by the social and business associations ^{of} through a long and active life.

It was therefore quite natural that he should- without in the least intending ~~thereby~~ to evince an unfriendly discrimination- have placed the portraits of some, who were his friends, among the many pictures in a gallery, which we all know, was never intended to be personal, political or sectional.

But further, ^{the history of} some of those soldiers on the Southern side, whose valour, virtue and skill have made them illustrious, belong ^{to} to no party and to no section, but ^{are} are claimed by the whole American people, as part of a common heritage. The unstinted gratitude of Congress has erected upon the public squares of the Capital City, in enduring ^{statues} marble and brass effigies of those brave heroes who won renown under the

Stars and Stripes and it doubtless seemed to Mr Corcoran, to be but just, that the likeness of those too should be preserved, who had offered up their lives in defence of principles, symbolized by the Southern Cross. *cancel*

Mr Corcoran's private gallery was largely devoted to the establishment of what has become a public institution and the strictures made upon his generous and public spirited acts and a very small part of the contents of the gallery with the deliberate purpose of injuring in popular estimation, not so much the institution as the city containing it, were to use the most charitable description both unkind, unwise and unjust,

I am of Southern birth and in ^{an} ~~fortune~~ ^{at least} and relatively a resultant sufferer from the war in which both Union and Confederate Armies participated with conspicuous energy and valour and think that as the campaigns have ceased, as the war ^{is} ended, as the bloody battle fields of the past are ^{cancel} ~~green~~ with the emblems of peace and prosperity and the sufferers on both sides are forgetting their hardships and sacrifices and looking with common pride upon the development and growth of all sections, that every attempt made by indiscreet and often untruthful politicians and demagogues to stir up party strife and animosity to accomplish sectional, ^{or} political preferment, should receive the censure and denunciation of all who are interested in the welfare of the whole country and all who love the Stars and Stripes.

The war and its generals have passed into history and as time rolls on the scenes and the actors will be represented in the various galleries and no one will be found either cruel or impudent enough in speech or in print, to attack the motives of those benefactors who create great public blessings or those who administer their trusts because of any special

characteristic attaching to such gifts.

I understand, contributions from individuals, of a sufficient degree of excellence, will be accepted by your board and I desire, as a Southern woman, in furtherance of the sentiments I have expressed, to make a gift to your gallery of a portrait of General U. S. Grant, feeling sure that this will be followed by others and ~~that thus~~^{thus}, any ground for criticism of an institution of which all our citizens are proud may be most effectually removed.

Your obedient servant,

May H. Waring

No. 7318

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Merden Miss Howard

Residence. Huntsville

Ala.

Date. Sept. 20. 1891

Rec'd " 22 "

Ack'd

Answered " 22/91

SUBJECT.

Asks information
about the School and
Copying.

✓

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

SEP 23 1891 & ansd

Washington, D. C.

Savannah, Alabama

Sept 20 1891.

Dr. Francis Pickens -
 Director of Corcoran Art Gallery:
 Dear Sir -

I was recently given your address by Mrs James Hanes of Washington - as being one upon whom I might call for information in regard to Anna Washington's last master.

I have now visited the Corcoran Gallery, and had thought of making the art census (Should it be held this winter) an opportunity for doing so.

Whether the League meets or
not, I may visit the Gallery.
if I could be sure of finding
facilities for Mr. Stickney at the
same time.

May I ask you to tell me
if there is an Out School in
connection with the Gallery? -
I expect an almost 6-copy
picture in the Gallery - ?
and any other important
facts regarding the matter.

I will be grateful for
the information, and am
Very Respectfully yours -
(Wm) Howard Fisher

No. 7319

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Walker Wm S.

Residence Silverton

Col:

Date Oct. 6. 1891

Rec'd " 12 "

Ack'g'd

Answered " 12 "

SUBJECT.

Portrait of Washington
for sale.

✓

7319

The Walker House,

WALKER & MERTON.

OCT 12 1891
The Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

Silverton, Colo.,

Oct 6 1891

To the Corcoran Art Gallery,
Washington D.C.

A friend of mine is the owner of an original portrait of Genl Geo. Washington. - Painted in oil, by a painter of celebrity, somewhere about 1787. - towards the latter part of last Century.

It was painted for & at request of Col. Clemm of Baltimore, who was either in Washington's Staff, or was serving in the "Revolutionary Army" under the General. Col Clemm was buried in the Citizens Monument at Balt.

Evidence can be furnished of the genuineness of the picture. The present owner has had the painting many years. It is now

in St Louis -

It went from Col Clemm
to his sister Mrs Tschudi -
and by her was left to her
daughter-in-law Mrs J H.
Tschudi of St Louis

What would be the value
of such a painting, and
would your Art Gallery
like to purchase it.

It is said to be one
of three - only original
paintings of General Washington.

The frame shows great age
& is perfectly plain. of a lead
color. Please let me
hear from you.

If not you, who then, as a
lover of Art would like to
secure this portrait.

Respy

Wm S. Walker
Silverson
Colo.

In m. S. B.

No. 7320

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Wentworth J. H. Sr.,

Residence 215 Washington Ave:

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Date Oct. 14 - 20. 1891

Rec'd " 16, 21 "

Ack'g'd " 16, "

Answered

SUBJECT.

About a painting of
Niagara.

✓

not say less in behalf of my father in not
finishing in all respects what he intended doing,
nor of myself for the apparent neglect of doing
what now seems necessary should have been
done. and when so prepared I am quite sure
will add much to your valuable gallery of
art, as far as Niagara is concerned, but I
shrink from the task of doing, what I am in
a measure incompetent of knowing just ex-
actly what to do, how to do it, and might place
in some unskillful hands, that would utterly
ruin instead of benefiting it. I think you
will understand me in all this and appre-
ciate in some degree. Again I ask pardon
for this long letter on this subject while

I subscribe myself with great regards

your much obliged

J A Wentworth

7320
215 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn Oct 20th 1891

Mr J J Barbard Curator
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington DC

Yours of the 16th inst
was duly rec^d, and I now thank you for your
kindness in looking at my picture of Niagara,
and your interest in the painting, as well as
the frankness and candor of your expressions
in regard to it. I might say, it was never
painted for public inspection, but for the satisfac-
tion of the artist in employing his skill in put-
ting on canvas so grand a display of Art, as
that which Nature presented him in its scenery
at Niagara. It has been in the family ever
since. When living I heard him say, he would
not for any consideration have a brush put
upon the canvas to change it any wise, all
below the sky, was finished to his entire satisfac-
tion,

and that he intended to lighten up, and give it the finishing touch when he had the time; the clouds were all as appeared there, but needed the finishing touch; he was called away to other things, and that time never came to do it; he was in after years stricken with paralysis and died in 1849. Since coming to Washington in '85 I became somewhat acquainted with a man named ^{Slipkirk}, a professed artist 945 Penn Ave, and since his death I learn he was quite skilled in cleaning and restoring old pictures, and he had one said to be 200 years old, which he was then bringing out in its original beauty which I saw, and from which he expected fine results. I invited him to see my painting, he gladly accepted and came, and he is the only artist that then ever saw it. On his examination, I asked him what I should do (I knew it had no proper frame) he replied, "the painting is a very fine one, the best I ever saw of the kind; the canvas is of the best of linen, and prepared in the best manner; the paints and everything show the artist knew what

he was doing; "the water looks wet," "the perspective is grand;" "it is well preserved;" "let it alone."

As you remark "a little proper attention would remove the discoloration and render it more attractive and valuable", I am quite sure it would. The discoloration alluded to, must be in the unfinished touching of the sky. The other part is very perfect, but may need cleaning. It is the only one that now exists of that date, and is the best representation of Niagara now extant, and should it be spoiled or lost, there is no amount of money can duplicate it. No my dear Sir I am not "disappointed in not disposing" of it to your gallery in its present condition, but in doing it, ^{I thought} you could judge of it, and know what it required to make it "attractive and valuable" as an historical record of the great cataract; that in your liberality as a patron of such art you could estimate its valuable qualities, in their true light, and I deduct from such valuation the cost of making it meet your approbation should you desire it. Pardon this long letter for I could

The Corcoran Gallery of Art

OCT 15 1891

D ansd

Washington, D. C.

215 Washington Ave

Brooklyn N Y Oct 14 1891

Mr J. F. Barbard Curator
of Corcoran Gallery

Washington D C

My dear Sir

Yours of the 11th inst was duly forwarded to me in this City, for which I am very much obliged. I know of your having a painting of Niagara in your Gallery, of the British side of the Falls. It occurred to me however, that mine being a much older one, and probably the first one put on canvas, giving a view of the whole falls, Goat Island, and river above, and the only one drawn from Nature of so early a date, it would give a more extended view, and add much to the historic record of that wonderful Cataract.

I left it hanging at the Washington Safe Depos-
it Co., and gave my address at the gallery, where

it could be seen, where it will remain until
Nov 9th proximo, though not in a favorable
light for exhibition— I hope you will be
interested in looking at it, and as Connois-
-sieur in that branch of Art, I shall be pleas-
-ed to have you do so, and give expression
to your ideas in regard to it— Considering
it had been painted 68 years, and not gone
through any special process of cleaning, you
might see in it merit worth preserving so
valuable a relic of its history

with much regard

I am very truly yours

J. W. Wentworth Jr

No. 7317

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Warner Mary H.

Residence.....

Date Sept. 22. 1891

Rec'd

Ack'g'd

Answered.....

SUBJECT.

Desires to present a
portrait of Genl U.S. Grant
to the Gallery.

✓